

The third section is of more general interest. A chapter on scientific method in field surveys and a reprint of the 1953 Cutter lecture, "Observations and Experiments," are followed by three well known papers by the author and Richard Doll; two are about the association between cancer of the lung and tobacco smoking and the third is their second report on lung cancer and other causes of death in relation to smoking. It will be remembered that the last was based on doctors' smoking habits in 1951 and their subsequent cause of death. Other reports in this section, by the author alone or with colleagues, include a study of poliomyelitis in England and Wales between the wars, a large scale investigation into the possible association between inoculation and paralytic poliomyelitis, studies of the possible associations between virus diseases in pregnancy and congenital malformations, Asian influenza in pregnancy and congenital defects, and X-rays in utero and leukaemia, and studies of cancer in a factory where inorganic compounds of arsenic were used. A fitting conclusion to the book is the appreciation of John Snow written for the Royal Society of Medicine on the occasion of the centenary of the publication of his second epidemiological study on cholera.

Readers, who are familiar with Sir Austin's work, may be disappointed that nothing new is included. Possibly in an attempt to forestall such disappointment, the author includes a bibliography of his work and relevant Medical Research Council reports. Reference to these will bring the reader up to date, but, although it will be appreciated that the selection of practical applications was made primarily to illustrate principles of philosophy and methodology, I would have welcomed a bibliography of work by subsequent investigators on the more important epidemiological discoveries made by Sir Austin and his colleagues and a review of such subsequent work by the author would have been particularly welcome.

E. A. C.

AIDS TO SURGERY. By Michael Harmer, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., F.R.C.S., and G. Maurice Lunn, M.A., M.Chir., F.R.C.S. Ninth Edition. (Pp. 368; figs. 26. 15s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1962.

THIS little book contains a remarkable amount of accurate and up-to-date information, presented in a dogmatic manner, but its purpose is not clear. It is neither an adequate textbook nor a proper substitute for personal notes. Most good students fill their notebooks with their own understanding of surgery, derived from their own observations and teaching in the wards, from textbooks and lectures, from tutorial classes and from discussions among themselves. These personal notes form the best basis of revision for examinations. R. B. W.

ASPECTS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY. By I. Atkin, M.D.(Lond.), D.P.M. (Pp. vii + 103. 10s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1962.

"LETTERS from a Psychotherapist," or an Anthology in Prose and Verse are possible alternative titles that might suggest themselves to the reader of this book. The author states that most of the material has already appeared in print (in a variety of journals that cater for differing needs). Such variety lends interest to the book, and when a whole chapter in verse is encountered, it serves to highlight the fact that what the author regards as an art is best expressed in artistic form.

Dr. Atkin distils his experience in psychotherapy and presents it in a very readable way. His book is not a systematic exposition, but it does convey an attitude of mind that beginners in the field may find helpful. Philosophy rather than psychology is the keynote of chapters such as those dealing with shock therapies and of leucotomy, and Dostoevsky. The chapter addressed to the trainee psychiatrist embarking on psychotherapy, wisely warns against too early acceptance of any particular school of psychology. The more experienced psychiatrist will enjoy Dr. Atkin's approach to the subject, but its value for the General Practitioner might best be realised if the views put forward were used to form the basis for discussion with psychiatrists as part of a postgraduate training programme.

The book is well produced. It will not lose its value if individual chapters are read when time permits.

J. G. G.